AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended): A game machine comprising:

a plurality of columns where each column has multiple types of symbols which are displayed through a window in a changing manner in the column direction and in a fixed manner

display regions;

a display module for displaying a <u>at least one symbol of each column</u> plurality of symbols in

the window to provide a row of symbols each display region;

an evaluation module for evaluating whether the row of symbols meets a predetermined

condition prior to the start of is met in a game based on a betting operation input by a player;

a selection module for determining a <u>if display region needed to change</u> the number of

symbols displayed through the window needs to be changed; and

a display control module for simultaneously increasing and decreasing the changing a

number of symbols on each column in a common row being displayed through the window in at

least one of said display regions if the predetermined condition is met.

2-4 Canceled

5. (Currently amended) A game machine according to claim 1 wherein said display

control module expands or reduces increases and decreases an area of said window display regions

Application Serial No. 10/801,330 Amendment dated March 19, 2008 In Response to Office Action of December 19, 2007

of said display module to change a increase and decrease the number of symbols of each column being displayed simultaneously.

6. (Currently amended): A game machine according to claim 1 further comprising:

a cover for covering <u>at least a portion of</u> said window <u>display regions</u>; and a device for opening and closing said cover; wherein a <u>the</u> number of symbols displayed <u>simultaneously through</u> in said <u>window display regions</u> is changed by opening and closing said cover using said device.

7. (Currently amended): A game machine according to claim 1 wherein:

said game includes a normal game and a special game; and said display control module changes a increases the window size to increase the number of symbols on all columns displayed simultaneously through said window during said special game.

8. (Original): A game machine according to claim 7 wherein said special game is a free game activated without a player having to perform a new operation to increase a bet count.

9. Cancelled

10. (Currently amended) A gaming method comprising the steps of: receiving a betting operation input by a player,

Docket No. 09868/0200587-US0

Application Serial No. 10/801,330 Amendment dated March 19, 2008

In Response to Office Action of December 19, 2007

displaying a plurality of columns where each column has multiple types of symbols which

are displayed through a window in a changing manner in the column direction and in a fixed manner

symbols in a plurality of display regions;

evaluating whether a predetermined condition is met in a game according to the received

betting operation;

selecting a display region for changing determining if the number of symbols displayed

through the window needs to be changed; and

changing a the number of symbols on each column in a common row being displayed in said

window simultaneously selected display region if the predetermined condition is met.

11-13 Canceled

14. (Currently amended): A gaming method according to claim 10 wherein an area of said

window display regions of said display module expands or reduces increases and decreases to

change a the number of symbols being displayed simultaneously.

15. (Currently amended): A gaming method according to claim 10 wherein the number of

symbols displayed in said display regions window is changed increased and decreased by opening

and closing a cover using a device for opening and closing said cover.

4

Docket No. 09868/0200587-US0

Application Serial No. 10/801,330

Amendment dated March 19, 2008

In Response to Office Action of December 19, 2007

16. (Currently amended): A gaming method according to claim 10 wherein said game

includes a normal game and a special game; and the said display control module changes a number

of symbols of each column displayed in said display regions window is increased simultaneously

during said special game.

17. (Original): A gaming method according to claim 16 wherein said special game is a free

game activated without a player having to perform a new operation to increase a bet count.

18. (Currently amended): A gaming method according to claim 10 wherein the number of

symbols of each column that can be displayed in said display regions window is increased if the

predetermined condition is met to change said number of symbol by increasing the window size.

19. (Previously presented): A gaming method according to claim 10, wherein the received

betting operation is a MAXBET play.

20. (Previously presented): A gaming method according to claim 10, wherein the received

betting operation is a MAX line play.

21. (Previously presented): A gaming method according to claim 10, wherein the received

betting operation is an additional bet play.

Application Serial No. 10/801,330 Amendment dated March 19, 2008 In Response to Office Action of December 19, 2007

- **22.** (**Previously presented**): A gaming method according to claim 10, wherein the additional bet play is received before the start of the game.
- 23. (Previously presented): A gaming method according to claim 10, wherein the additional bet play is received after the conclusion of the game.
- **24.** (New) A gaming method according to claim 15, wherein the cover is adapted to move at least one of down and up from the top of the window and up and down from the bottom of the window.
- **25.** (New) A gaming method according to claim 24, wherein the cover is adapted to cover and uncover less than a full symbol on each column.
- **26.** (New) A gaming method according to claim 24, wherein the cover is adapted to cover and uncover a full symbol on each column.
- **27.** (New) A gaming method according to claim 24, wherein the cover is adapted to initially cover a full symbol on each column and then uncover the full symbol on each column.